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May 20, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope you can indulge me a moment to introduce City Heights. It's one of more than four dozen communities that comprise the City of San Diego. Its boundaries are Interstate Highway-8 on the North side, State Route-94 on the South, the combination of Interstate Highway-805 and State Route-15 on the West, and the combination of 54th Street, Chollas Parkway, and 47th Street to the East. I've attached a map to outline our boundaries and show you our sixteen neighborhoods.

We are slightly over 78,000 neighbors of every race, color, creed, and national origin on the planet. Our neighbors speak nearly 50 languages and 100 or so dialects within that. City Heights hosts so many refugees and other immigrants that it has been called the "Ellis Island of the West" with no great exaggeration.

Many neighbors are not yet citizens and cannot vote. Some are undocumented and cannot vote. Many are under-age and cannot vote. For these and other reasons, City Heights will not ever decide a political race or even tip the balance in a close race. If City Heights is to have access to political influence, which is the goal of every participant in the redistricting process, that will happen only by our having access to many elected officials rather than just one of each kind.

As you draw assembly district boundaries, I hope the Commission will remember who and what we are, what we need, and will give City Heights access to two or more Assembly members. If we could have access to more than one State Senator too, we'd be delighted -

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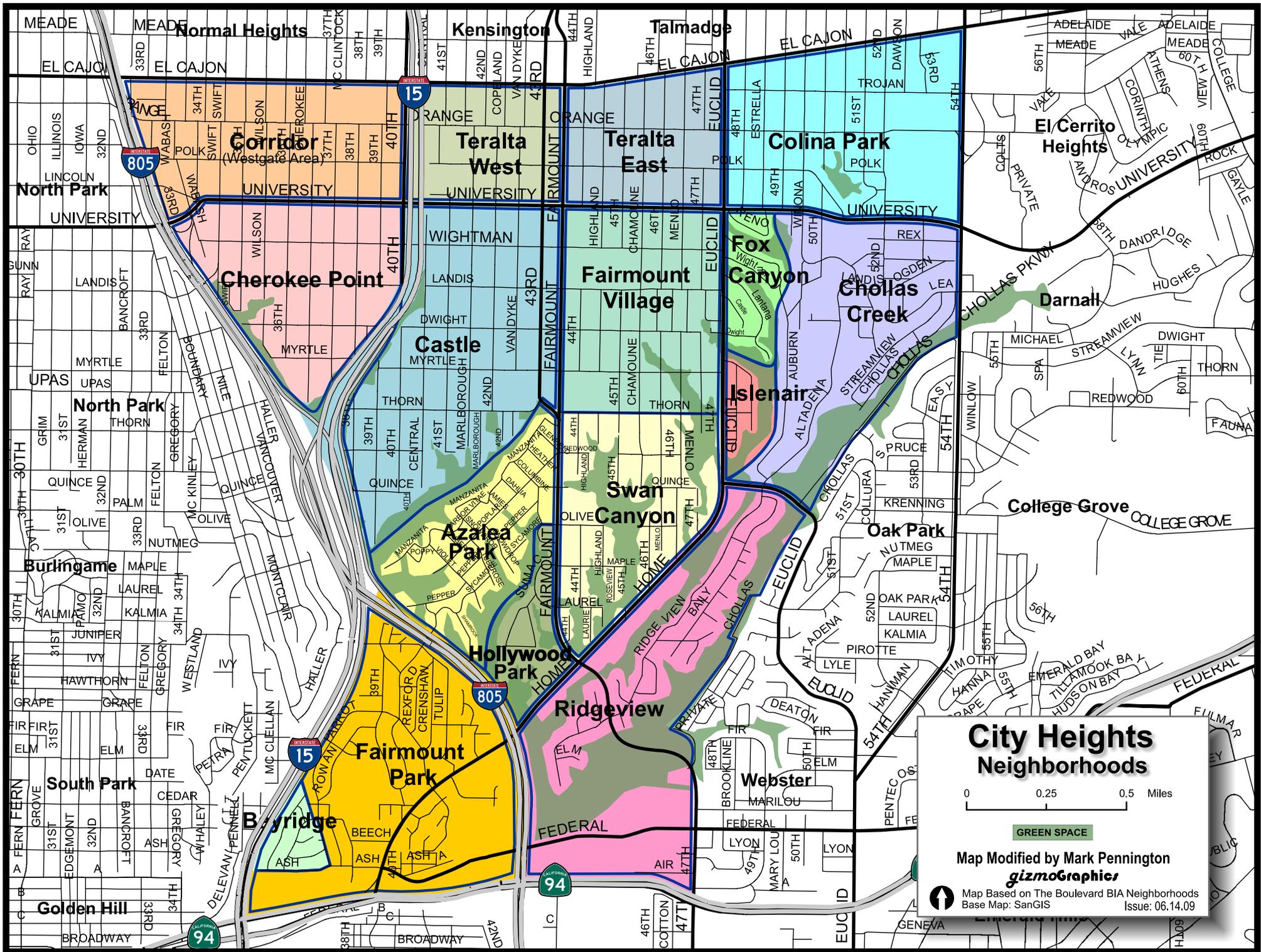
although we recognize that's not in the cards for us. Two Assembly members will help us a lot.

Thank you,

Jim Varnadore
City Heights

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City Heights Neighborhoods

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

GREEN SPACE

Map Modified by Mark Pennington
gizmoGraphics

Map Based on The Boulevard BIA Neighborhoods
Base Map: SanGIS Issue: 06.14.09